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WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

How the *Olympian* helps shape the City Council

IN ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST META HOGAN, THE *OLYMPIAN* PURSUES A LEAD THAT IT INVENTED

by Rob Richards

Hogan v. the *Olympian*

If you have been paying attention to the recent local elections, you are most likely sore from banging your head against the wall. Our city council swung dramatically to the right (though I am sure they would call it the center), and we have a steep uphill battle ahead of us to protect our collective values.

Our choices this election were slim pickings to begin with, with Matthew Green and Meta Hogan being the only truly progressive choices on the ballot in the races for Olympia City Council.

Meta Hogan was defeated by Doug Mah. From the day she declared she was running, the *Olympian*, with the help of reporter Matt Batcheldor, took every opportunity they were given to paint her as only an "inexperienced homeless advocate," neglecting to talk about substantive issues, and instead relying on a preconceived, biased narrative. They heavily supported Mah on their editorial page as well, using it as a forum to promote his campaign.

For some reason, however, Hogan losing the election was not enough. Days after the election, Matt Batcheldor wrote a front page article that accused Hogan of improperly spending campaign funds. This article contained lies of omission and overblown statements; in addition, parts of it were refuted by the very sources quoted in the article.

After the first article was printed, I decided to follow up on it and do some fact checking. What I found was evidence of one of two things, or perhaps a combination of both. Either Batcheldor is a lazy journalist and the *Olympian* news editors do not care, or the *Olympian* wanted to drag Hogan through the mud one more time. The election is over—why would they do that? The answer, I believe, is political. When Doug Mah takes the mayor's chair, his current seat will be vacant and it will be up to the council to appoint the final member. Hogan has said that she will likely apply for that position. Therefore, by discrediting her reputation, the *Olympian* is doing its part to assure that there is not a single council member with truly progressive goals.

> PDC assistant director Doug Ellis confirms the [*Olympian*] conversation and also stated that this was the first contact they had received regarding Hogan's campaign spending.

Sometime in the few days after the election, the *Olympian* reporter Matt Batcheldor claims to have received an anonymous tip that Hogan had violated Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) rules in her campaign spending. After receiving the tip, Batcheldor then called the PDC. Before we go any further, let's look at the first sentence of Batcheldor's article:

Olympia mayoral candidate Meta Hogan is under scrutiny from the state Public Disclosure Commission for spending campaign donors' money on questionable items — including cigarettes for herself,

This sentence is the nut of the entire article, and Batcheldor attempts to convince us that this statement is true. It seems that Batcheldor was looking for a story to write, and instead of collecting facts and letting them write the story for him, he picked out the parts he wanted to use and wrote his article based on an untrue premise, that Meta Hogan ran a dishonest campaign.

The fact is that Meta Hogan was not under scrutiny at all. According to my conversation with PDC Communications Officer Lori Anderson, the PDC had received no complaints about Hogan and that a call by the *Olympian*'s Editorial Page Editor Mike Oakland was the first contact they had received. Oakland spoke to PDC assistant director Doug Ellis, who confirms the conversation and also stated that this was the first contact they had received regarding Hogan's campaign spending. Mike Oakland's involvement in this issue was left completely out of Batcheldor's article, as was any mention of the anonymous tip he claims now to have received. It was highly irresponsible for Batcheldor to leave out the fact that the editorial page editor of the *Olympian* broke this to the PDC, while at the same time manipulating facts in order to lead people to believe that the PDC had been independently investigating Hogan.

During our phone conversation, Ellis explained that if questionable expenses are discovered in a campaign, the first step is a form letter to the candidate asking for a justification of the spending. Not, according to Ellis, what he would categorize as an investigation. When asked if Batcheldor's

▸ See **OLYMPIAN** on page 5

PMR women's caucus takes direct action for global human rights

by Kyle Taylor Lucas

Though conspicuously absent from mainstream media coverage, evidence of authentic democracy was demonstrated by 39 women who locked arms and placed their bodies on the line at the Port of Olympia on Nov. 13. They took action for human rights and to stop use of the Port of Olympia as a revolving door to perpetuate war on an innocent nation, as well as to stop the killing and maiming of our men and women in the armed forces. They stood in solidarity on behalf of human rights and in support of Iraqi women who are being murdered and whose families, lives, country, and culture are being destroyed.

The women's caucus of the Olympia Port Militarization Resistance (OlyPMR) held the Port of Olympia main gate with their bodies and averted passage of Stryker combat vehicles returning from Iraq. These 39 courageous women and their female supporters organized throughout the afternoon, then formed a human blockade in opposition to the illegal and immoral occupation of a sovereign country and the massacre of more than 1 million innocent Iraqi civilians. Their female supporters in like numbers stood behind, fast and strong, and joined their voices in unity as they faced and advised the forty Olympia cops standing in full riot gear ahead of them: "No force is necessary, we are nonviolent. No weapons on our bodies, we are nonviolent." One observer wondered at the irony and rhetorically asked, "Who will protect us from our own police?"

"I went to the port tonight in solidarity with women globally who struggle to stop human rights abuses," said Shizuno Wynkoop, "and to support soldiers by keeping them home with their families instead of sent off to war." Another participant, Patty Imani, expressed grave concerns about the potential health hazards that the community is being exposed to by the depleted uranium in the returning military equipment.

Following an earlier weekend miscalculation of a convoy route and blockade, as the routes kept changing, the women's caucus met several times over two days and decided upon a more organized action, with the support of the main body and other affinity groups. During the course of the late afternoon and Tuesday evening, as the women waited for the Stryker combat vehicles to exit the port, they were attacked by racist and sexist taunts and jeers, and threats of violence from the flag-waving war supporters positioned on the opposing corner.

Originally, nine women committed to the direct action, with about a dozen women supporting. As the afternoon wore on and more and more women arrived at the port gates, they joined the line as participants and as legal and medical support. The action was planned and coordinated solely by the women's caucus. However, dozens of male allies formed a human shield between the women and the haters, whose hostility and threats had escalated.

The tension was palpable as the riot police rolled in equipment that appeared at first to be a cannon. Many wondered

▸ See **WOMEN'S CAUCUS** on page 9

The women's solidarity action embodied the blockade on the night of Nov. 13 at the Port of Olympia.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions
Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress*, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *submissions@olywip.org* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool
The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

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"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

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We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues
Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. *WIP* is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

About the cover: Police take back the Port of Olympia from the people of Olympia, on Saturday, Nov. 10.

Front cover photos by Anne Fischel.
Back cover photo by Jami Williams.

WIP Schedule

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Port of Olympia Legal Defense Fund has been reactivated!

This legal defense fund was set up to support those arrested in protest of the militarization of the Port of Olympia. Many local activists risked their freedom in defiance of George W. Bush's illegal war in Iraq. Those facing charges are expected to face prosecution, and this fund will help ensure their fair and equitable legal defense.

The Port of Olympia Legal Defense Fund was incorporated as a non-profit organization with the Secretary of State of the State of Washington. The Port of Olympia Legal Defense Fund's UBI number is: 602-619-196.

Donate via PayPal at *www.paypal.com* to the following address: **oly.port.ldf@gmail.com** or send a check to Port of Olympia Legal Defense Fund, PO Box 295 Olympia, Washington 98507-0295.

Stonewall Youth presents its 4th Annual Auction

Gay Hollywood Soiree: A Red Carpet Rendezvous
Saturday, December 1, 7 to 10:30 pm
Eagles Ballroom on 4th and Plum

Yes! It's that time again for the Stonewall Youth Auction. Please join us on the red carpet for a night of food, swing dancing, live jazz music and of course some amazing items for you to bid on during our live and silent auction. Also get ready to win the **2007 Stonewall Drag Show** on DVD as one of our raffle prizes. Save room for an ore of decadent treats that will be available to bid on during our dessert auction.

7 to 9 PM: Gourmet dinner and silent auction
9 PM: Live auction
10:30 PM: Ballroom dancing and live jazz band
Tickets: $25.00

For more information, to reserve tickets, to make a donation, or if you are interested in volunteering for this event, please call Katrina Stern at the Stonewall office at (360) 705-2738.

Know Your Rights workshop

Thursday, December 6, 6:30 pm to 9 pm
Traditions Café, 300 5th Ave SW

The **People's Legal Defense Fund** will be hosting a Know Your Rights workshop. Topics will include your rights while interacting with police on the street, as well as at protests. Also discussed will be your rights in the legal system. After the speakers, **Larry Hildes**, a lawyer who commonly represents activists and serves as a legal observer at protests, and **Karen Weill**, will be available to speak with people who were arrested at the Port of Olympia, or feel their rights have been violated by the police.

MOVIE SHOWING: *Black Gold*

Movie and Panel Discussion
Friday, December 7, 7:00 pm
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
2200 East End St NW, Olympia

Multinational coffee companies now rule our shopping malls and supermarkets and dominate the industry worth over $80 billion, making coffee the most valuable trading commodity in the world after oil. But while we continue to pay for our lattes and cappuccinos, the price paid to coffee farmers remains so low that many have been forced to abandon their coffee fields. Nowhere is this paradox more evident than in Ethiopia, the birthplace of coffee. Tadesse Meskela is one man on a mission to save his 74,000 struggling coffee farmers from bankruptcy. *www.blackgoldmovie.com*

Followed by a panel discussion with local coffee roasters and buyers: Batdorf & Bronson's roaster and Green Coffee buyer Scott Merle, and Ravens Brew Coffee's general manager Paul Schuster.

Free and open to all. Donations appreciated: $5–$25 sliding scale.

ArtPOWER: a sale and celebration of local artists and crafters

Sat., Dec. 8, from 5 pm to 9 pm
Sun., Dec. 9, from 10 am to 3 pm
at Bryce's Barbershop, 118 4th Ave and
Studio Four18, 418 Washington St

Join us for affordable art and crafts, live music, desserts and coffee.

For more information or to donate art contact POWER, (360) 352-9716, *welfarerights@riseup.net*, *www.myspace.com/parentsorganizing* or stop by the Payne Room at the First Christian Church, 701 Franklin St SE.

Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's 32nd Annual Peace Vigil

Sat., Dec. 15, from noon to 1 pm
4th Ave W at Percival Landing

Our annual vigil is a widely appreciated Olympia tradition. Children are welcome. We provide a good variety of signs, but participants may bring their own.

We invite vigilers to enjoy social time and free refreshments at a nearby location when the vigil ends at 1 pm. During this holiday season of joy and goodwill, let us invite the whole community to set aside all militarism and violence, which are the opposites of joy and good will. The December 15 vigil gives participants and passersby an opportunity to pause and consider choosing peace instead of violence. Peace is so much more consistent with the holiday spirit! A flyer and a news release will soon be available for downloading from our website, *www.olyfor.org*.

For information contact Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093 or *glen@olywa.net*.

Impeachment party to connect people and energize movement

Fri., Dec. 28, 5 to 9 pm
Women's Club, 1002 Washington St SE, Olympia

Yes, it really is possible to impeach Bush and Cheney! Yes, there really is time to do it! The facts are clear! The public wants to do it! Let's connect people, energize the movement, and make history! What do we do when we're in a tough spot? We throw a party! Come to the Impeachment Party. Enjoy food (pizza, seafood, salad), beverages, music, social time, fun, games, information resources, informal discussions, and action opportunities. Two popular bands are already confirmed: Bevy, an all-woman Latin jazz band; and Street Karaoke Project.

State Senator Karen Fraser will discuss why she supported State Sen. Eric Oemig's SJM 8016 in the 2007 State Legislature, which urged Congress to consider impeachment. Other interesting persons will speak briefly.

This is *not* a fundraiser! We'll pass the hat and hope to raise just enough to cover the party's expenses.

This is sponsored by the local Citizens Movement to Impeach Bush/Cheney (*www.CitizensImpeach.org*). For information, call 491-9093 or 491-1540.

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THE REAL ENEMY: SILENCE AND PASSIVITY

by Zoltan Grossman

I attended the Port of Olympia protests as a witness taking video documentation, much as I have in conflicts back home in Wisconsin. Some of these videos are posted at *www.youtube.com/profile_videos?user=zoltangrossman* .

I want to share some of my perspectives, not only on the street confrontations, but on the development of local antiwar activism as a social movement.

During the port protests, I often thought about my research into past eras of US history. When we read or watch films about the wartime loss of civil liberties, we often wonder why people didn't do more to protect the right to dissent. How could people go on with business-as-usual when fellow human beings were being slaughtered in foreign countries, and beaten in the streets or jailed at home? How could our citizens remain quiet when democracy was being undermined in the name of protecting democracy?

Well, stop trying to find the answers in past history, because all we have to do is look around us. Even on the Evergreen campus, it is hard to tell not only that there's a war on, but that there is a war at home directed against dissent, creating fear in our own city. When we see the police repressing dissidents in our own city—not safely removed in another city or country—we tend to blame the victims instead of the government.

More people should come out and speak their mind about this war and occupation—no matter what their opinion—and stop outsourcing their beliefs. Our society outsources everything these days; just try finding a plastic toy not Made in China. We are so used to outsourcing our production that we are now outsourcing our civic responsibility. If we support the war, we want someone else to fight it for us. If we oppose the war, we want someone else to protest it for us. But we all have a duty as citizens to get involved. If you support the war, enlist to fight in it. If you oppose the war, travel 10 minutes from your home to protest it.

We are already acting in support of this war and occupation. By paying federal taxes, we have already paid for the cluster bombs and white phosphorus that have killed so many Iraqis. We cannot simply blame George W. Bush, since we are all enabling his occupation. The protesters are trying to offset their daily tax payments in support of the war with just a tiny bit of being active to end the war. Those of us who verbally bash Bush—but do nothing else—are still financing the war without counterbalancing it with personal action. We are exercising our privilege to do nothing while the people on the frontlines—US soldiers and Iraqis alike—have had that choice taken away from them.

> We are so used to outsourcing our production that we are now outsourcing our civic responsibility. If we support the war, we want someone else to fight it for us. If we oppose the war, we want someone else to protest it for us.

War touches us all, and we are all participating whether we like it or not. However you decide to do it, now is the time to get involved and help make a difference. As the Italian poet Dante wrote, "The darkest places in hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality in times of moral crisis."

At the very least, visibly protesting the war lets the rest of the world know that most Americans oppose the occupation, and we want to put our country on a different path. The elections were supposed to do that, but the Democratic Congress is not doing its job to represent the will of the 70% majority of Americans against the war. Our own congressman, Brian Baird, has even taken an extreme turn from the peace camp to the Bush camp. The major presidential candidates all say that our troops will be in Iraq even after their first term ends in 2013. If the politicians were fulfilling their duty, the protesters would not have to fulfill their duty to dissent. They could work within the system, but the system has broken down and failed us.

In Thurston County we have a situation unique to the entire country: the juxtaposition of a large antiwar progressive community next to one of the largest Army bases in the United States. Students, soldiers and other local residents are making a stand that is being noticed in the rest of the country and the world. We are at a time and a place when history is being made. Don't let history pass you by. If you're afraid of getting involved, then witness with a camera, write letters to the paper, question politicians and make them uncomfortable, or talk about it with neighbors, friends and family. Don't wash your hands of it because one of your loved ones hasn't yet been sent to Iraq, or because one of your friends hasn't been injured at 4th and Plum.

US protesters were effective in helping to end the Vietnam War in the 1970s, preventing invasions of Central America in the 1980s, ending South African apartheid in the 1990s, and curbing the powers of the WTO in the 2000s. We have a long, proud tradition of dissent stretching even farther back in our history. Protests can make a difference—even if it is difficult to see at the time—and they include the Olympia port protests.

Many people wonder why the protests resisted military cargo returning to Fort Lewis, instead of equipment leaving for Iraq. I wondered this too, until I saw the Strykers, most of which exited the port on trucks because they were broken in Iraq. Repeatedly ramming into Iraqis' front doors to conduct raids can put wear-and-tear on any vehicle.

> Social movements need both "organizing" to grow a movement, and "activism" to make it effective.

The ship and trucks are a glorified towing agency, bringing the Strykers back to repair them and return them to occupation duty. Protesters focused some of their blockades on trucks carrying the military equipment, while letting civilian cargo through. (On the morning of Nov. 13, the military tried once to sneak a military-cargo truck into a civilian convoy, but the truck followed so near and fast that it nearly rear-ended another truck, enabling protesters to block it.)

Until the recent protests, I think that some activists believed that action speaks for itself, and there is no need to explain to the public or media about the reasons for the action. This is a fatalistic and self-defeating attitude that assumes people will never change their minds—so why bother? But increasingly the peace movement is reaching out, and shifting from episodic activism to more stable community organizing. Social movements need both "organizing" to grow a movement, and "activism" to make it effective.

Port of Olympia, Nov. 10. A defining slogan during the port protests. (Photo by Jim Mayfield)

The media coverage of the protests predictably focused on the confrontations. But by attending the protests, one could see another part of the picture that was not covered at all. As a researcher of social movements, it is clear to me that the makeup of the local antiwar movement has shifted over the past two weeks, due to both the port protests and the high school walkouts. This shift can be seen in contrasting the bookend rallies of this protest cycle. The crowd at the Nov. 17 port rally was noticeably larger, younger, more spirited, and more diverse than the first Nov. 6 rally.

Many rallies I've attended around the country since the Iraq invasion have fit the stereotype of a privileged peace movement led by hippies or yuppies, and largely dominated by men. But the recent port protests felt different, with new faces, perspectives and life experiences. I noticed a slight increase in participation by people of color, especially women of color who participated in the street actions. There may be more people who are bored or frustrated with just attending vigils or listening to talking heads, but who come out of the woodwork to join an action.

The women's affinity group was at first not well received by some of the male (and female) protesters, who saw it as divisive or splitting the "unity" of the movement. They did not understand that women's autonomy helps to grow a social movement, because many women feel more comfortable and empowered by working with other women. (I heard the exact same debate during the Gulf War, when I was a man who did not fully understand.) But the nonviolent women's blockade on Tuesday evening completely shifted this negative thinking, through a positive and uplifting action. Women's voices are now stronger in the local movement, and this may contribute to more inclusive strategies and level-headed tactics in future actions.

All the protesters faced nationalist, misogynist and homophobic verbal abuse from the counterprotesters across the street, but for the most part did not take the bait, and defused potential conflicts with humor. It was difficult to turn the other cheek, especially when the police did not lift a finger to stop the threatening behavior of the pro-war side. But most protesters understood that the reason they were there was to resist the institutionalized machinery of war—not soldiers, military families, or other fellow human beings. After the police attacked the crowd on the night of Nov. 13, a handful of protesters retaliated with amateurish actions that detracted from the message and purpose of the protests, and I am sure they have been criticized by other protesters. But the only violence I actually witnessed

▸ See **PROTESTING** on page 8

Nov. 17 march and rally, which concluded the port protests. (Photo above by Jay Stewart. Photo below by Elliot Stoller.)

Outgoing City Councilmember TJ Johnson speaks truth from power

TJ Johnson interviewed by Janet Blanding

TJ Johnson leaves the Olympia City Council at the end of 2007 after having served a four year term. He is also a founding member of Olympia Port Militarization Resistance. Shortly after the protests at the Port of Olympia in November 2007, he was interviewed by Janet Blanding.

When the news hit that a military shipment would be coming through Olympia again, the rumor was that Thurston County Sheriffs would be providing security for the Port. Why was it that OPD (Olympia Police Department) ended up filling that role?

The sheriff didn't provide security because the port wouldn't sign a contract, and what the county had asked was for the port to pay all the costs and assume all liability. But the default police department for city streets is OPD. In the same way that they would clear the streets for a parade in the city of Olympia, security for the shipments came to them.

I was initially very surprised that OPD used violent means, rather than arrest, to control protesters. Why do you suppose they chose that course in the beginning, and did it surprise you?

Yes, I was quite surprised. Over the last year, I have been a defender of OPD within the PMR (Port Militarization Resistance) group, and I have essentially said I think Olympia cops are the best ones to deal with in these situations. Not everyone in PMR believed me, but I kept trying to make that argument. Well, they were right; I was wrong. I was surprised by OPD's brutality. I think we all expected them to handle this the way they did in 2006, when they did their job; they arrested people blocking streets, but they did it nonviolently. This time, it seemed as if the intention was to do harm.

Do you suspect that there was a financial motive for not arresting people?

I think that's possible. I think that arrests clearly cost more, or they think they cost more, because it ties up the legal system. The way that they just hurt people, then physically threw them in a ditch on Saturday morning, was very surprising. They didn't even make an attempt to arrest people. They just hurt them and removed them.

Thanks for organizing the forum at City Hall [On Sunday, Nov. 11, Johnson held a community forum at City Hall to address the violent police response to the nonviolent demonstrations]. What was your intention with creating that opportunity for victims of excessive force, and what do you think the effect will be?

There were three intentions to the forum. First was to help people deal with their trauma. The first step in overcoming trauma is acknowledging it. The forum was an opportunity for people to share their stories and process. Second thing, it was an opportunity to document what happened so that people have that available for filing grievances and potential lawsuits. That's why I arranged for three separate videographers to be there, so I knew we would get everything videotaped. And we did. We got it all on tape. I wanted to explain to people what the process was for filing complaints. So that's why I came with a box of forms. I handed the forms out and encouraged people to file complaints about what they had observed and what had happened to them. The third intention was to build solidarity among people who had been victimized.

What will come of this? I know a lot of complaints are being filed. We have everything documented on film, so that people who wish to use that as part of their complaint or legal process, that's available to them. I guess the other thing is that I wanted people to understand that at least one person on the city council was willing to listen to them, and shared their concerns at the police behavior.

None of the commissioners have indicated that they're rethinking military shipments. So what I see is a port commission that wants to continue to divide the community, and if they bring military shipments in, I foresee more confrontation.

During the forum, did any particular stories or incidents stand out?

First off, what most stood out was the consistency of what people reported. For three and a half hours, we heard the same thing over and over about the police behavior that people either experienced or observed. What was most troubling to me were the allegations of the police using force against people who were already restrained, and of the police using hate speech against people, particularly gays and lesbians. More than one person said they believed they were deliberately targeted because of their sexual orientation.

Was the hate speech directed just at gays and lesbians, or were other groups targeted?

That was what most stood out to me. I was shocked to hear Olympia police officers degrading our citizens based on their sexual orientation.

What do you think of the* Olympian*'s coverage of the port protests, particularly with respect to the excessive use of force by OPD?

I think it's been terrible. I think they have presented very one-sided information and I'm especially appalled at the way they have not stood up for their own staff members who were abused by the police. I think if I was a staff person at the *Olympian*, I would feel really really low, and not very confident about the integrity of my employer at this point. The column by Vicki Kilgore basically said, "These things didn't happen." Well, I saw them happen. Many other people saw them happen.

Rumors are circulating that one of the* Olympian*'s staffers told different stories on different days about being clubbed with a night stick. Why do you suppose his story changed?

I can only speculate that he talked to his boss. I do know that Tony Overman was sprayed repeatedly by the police, even as he identified himself to them. He was saying "Hey, I'm with the *Olympian*, I'm with the press." It was members of PMR that treated him for his injuries. Wes Hamilton was one of the people who used Maalox and water and helped Tony get through it [NOTE: *Maalox mixed with water is used to help flush the pepper spray out of eyes*]. Of course none of that was mentioned by the *Olympian*, because none of that would serve their agenda of making this very black and white: good cop, bad protesters.

What do you think about the story that Tony Overman, photographer for the* Olympian*, was surrounded by a threatening mob of protesters in black masks who grabbed at his equipment?

That did happen. So the *Olympian* reported on that accurately. What they didn't report on was that I and others intervened to try to help Tony, and again, they would never say that I did anything to help him, because that's not part of their agenda to demonize me as an individual.

That brings me to my next question: I just cringe when I read the things the* Olympian *publishes about you. Personally, I am really grateful that I live in a city where we have a council member like you, and I really appreciate the energy and commitment you bring to your job as a citizen, not only of Olympia, but of the global community. Our local paper seems to do an excellent job of finding your detractors, and publishing their negative tirades. Why do you suppose the* Olympian *promotes TJ-bashing?

I have a couple of ideas on that. One is that it's just the petty vindictive nature of [editorial page editor] Mike Oakland and [executive editor] Vickie Kilgore. And the second is that they endorsed me when I last ran for the council, and I had a very good relationship with them for a couple of months until I did the first thing they didn't like. I think they got some buyers' remorse. I think they had helped elect a person who they thought would run their agenda, and when it became clear that I wouldn't be running their agenda exclusively, they had buyers' remorse. I think they thought, hey, we helped get this guy elected, and now he's not doing what we want.

The online comments section of the* Olympian *has been really divisive as far as the protests are concerned. Some people have posted some really vicious things. I have a hard time understanding why the* Olympian *tolerates such things. As far as you know, does the* Olympian*'s comment section benefit the newspaper financially in any way?

I don't know about that. You used the term vicious—I would use the term illegal and threatening. I have read things in there—I don't read it very often—but I have read direct threats to individuals posted on their website sometimes. I think their legal people should be concerned about a forum that allows people to post death threats. Why they tolerate it I don't know.

Clearly the* Olympian*'s coverage attempts to polarize the community and prejudice opinion against PMR and in favor of the cops. Any thoughts as to why the Olympian takes such a black and white approach to these issues?

This is just my speculation, but I think there are three reasons. First, I think, it's the personality of the editor, Vickie Kilgore. Number two are the unspoken protocols of working for a multinational corporation. The third is fear of a backlash from their advertisers. Particularly the big advertisers like the car dealers. So much of their advertising is of the "wave the flag, red white and blue, buy a car to show your patriotism" type, I think that has an influence on the *Olympian*.

Three questions about the future: First, what do you foresee for the Port of Olympia?

None of the commissioners have indicated that they're rethinking military shipments. So what I see is a port commission that wants to continue to divide the community, and if they bring military shipments in, I foresee more confrontation.

What do you foresee for the OPD's relationship to protest and civil disobedience?

It's going to be very hard to repair any trust that existed. This is going to be dragged out through the accountability process, and it's going to be dragged out through the legal process for a long time. I hope that one of the things that emerges from this is the recognition that we need citizen oversight of the police department.

And what do you foresee for Olympia Port Militarization Resistance?

It's going to continue. As long as our port and ports in our region are being used to export and import violence, we're going to be there to shut the revolving door of death.

Are there are questions I missed? Is there anything you'd like to answer that I haven't asked?

Yes, a very important question. And it's this: Who at the city is accountable for what happened?

Right now, I am frustrated, because as a council member I don't have the answer. Is it the city manager? Is it the police chief? Were individual officers acting in accordance with some plan that had been developed, or were individual officers operating as free agents? The bottom line is, who owns this? I am frustrated, and at least a couple other council members are frustrated because we aren't getting answers. We're asking the questions, we've been asking these questions for over a week, and we're not getting answers. We deserve the answers, and the community deserves the answers.

Janet Blanding is a frequent contributor to Works In Progress.

Sunday, Nov. 11, 2007. Local residents give personal testimony on the abusive tactics by the Olympia Police Department during ongoing Port of Olympia protests. The testimonies were presented at a City Hall forum at the invitation of City Councilmember TJ Johnson, who is seated third from the left in the back. (Photo by Jay Stewart.)

DU weapons cause depleted health: IVAW speaks out

by Daisy Ouye

On the afternoon of Wed., Nov. 28, the final train of military equipment left the Port of Olympia, carrying, among other things, M1 Abrams tanks with depleted uranium armor. (Photo by Drew Hendricks)

In the 1991 invasion of Iraq, the US went in with weapons made from radioactive material called depleted uranium (DU). Internationally recognized scientists say DU, or so-called "depleted" uranium, has caused, and continues to cause a wide range of health problems in areas where these weapons are manufactured, tested and used in warfare.

Earlier this year five members of Iraq Veterans Against the War–Olympia Chapter took truth on tour. They spoke about their own boots on the ground experiences and circumstances surrounding the current occupation of Iraq. The subject of radioactive weaponry, still in use, was a major talking point.

Thom Cassidy was in Iraq from 2003–05. He told audiences of concerned citizens, "In the first Gulf War the level of radiation was 300 times what is considered normal. In this invasion we used even more DU bullets. The effects are horrible." Indeed, US strategic command admits to using over 2000 tons of DU in this invasion. The effects in Iraq since the first invasion continue to worsen. There are five times more leukemia sufferers, a tenfold increase in cancer, and a 600 percent increase in children born with devastating defects, if alive at all. Compounded by sanctions, DU weaponry has truly caused millions of deaths.

Joe Hatcher, who was in Iraq from Feb. 2004 until Mar. 2005 with the 4th Cavalry Brigade, talked about the invasion of Basra, a city with a population of 2.5 million. "I got a call from Bravo team, who was on the other side of town" Hatcher explained. "They said 'Stop firing, the DU bullets are coming through at us!'"

When DU explodes, it disperses into microscopic dust that can be breathed in. It can remain airborne or settle on soil and equipment. It contaminates the entire environment, food and water supply.

Hatcher describes further exposure to DU: "Before I went home on my last tour of duty, I was assigned to clean the trucks that we had used. As they were, they wouldn't pass environmental standards to come into Germany, because of the radiation they were around. I tell this to folks here in America, and often times they'll freak out, but back there it was just normal, just another assignment."

According to the Royal Society (Britain's pre-eminent science organization), DU's behavior in the body is identical to uranium. It has been known for decades that uranium targets DNA. Through private testing, five soldiers have found they suffered extensive genetic damage.

While US officials maintain inhaling small amounts is not dangerous, Dr. Rosalle Bertell, foremost in the field of radiation, says the opposite is true. Sparse distribution heightens the probability of free radicals reaching and reacting to the cell wall. The resulting health effects include respiratory damage, urinary tract damage, reproductive problems, brain lesions, depleted immune systems and cancers of the organs and skin. Many of these ailments begin with symptoms like extreme fatigue, brain dysfunction, a cough, or pain. Soldiers are often misdiagnosed or scantily compensated for what officials call undiagnosed illness.

The US spent $52 million on DU weapons in one month. Officials say it's used in weapons for its penetrability and because it's cheap. IVAW has joined scientists and activists across the globe in raising awareness of the true human cost of DU weapon use.

Daisy Ouye is an independent journalist. Born in Michigan, she has been an Olympia resident for 16 years.

▸ **OLYMPIAN** continued from page 1

lead sentence accurately reflected the actions of the PDC Ellis stated, "I suppose if they want to call it scrutiny they could, but really it's no more than asking [the candidate] for an explanation." Ellis went on to explain that if a candidate provides an explanation that passes muster with the PDC after that initial letter is mailed, then all is dropped. Ellis also clearly stated that there was "no formal investigation" into Hogan's campaign spending at that time.

According to Hogan Campaign Treasurer Pat Tassoni, as soon as a question arose about Hogan's spending, he and Hogan went to the PDC office, where they spoke with Lead Filer Assistance Specialist Sally Parker in order to clarify things. After hearing about some of the expenses in question, Parker advised that perhaps the cigarettes would not be considered acceptable after a review by the PDC. "At that point," Hogan said later, "I asked what we could do about it." Parker explained to her that the easiest thing to do would be to simply pay back her campaign for the expenses and update her PDC forms to reflect the changes.

Assistant Director Ellis confirmed, "That would probably solve any potential problems."

Hogan has indeed paid back her campaign, and revised the forms in compliance with PDC rules, which should be available online at the PDC website before this article goes to press.

It seems that Hogan could have avoided all of this by simply not disclosing her smaller expenses. According to PDC rules, a candidate is not required to disclose any expenses under $50. All of the expenses in question were under that amount. Doug Mah had many expenses under $50 that he did not disclose, yet did not receive the same scrutiny from the *Olympian* that Hogan did. According to Hogan, she chose to report everything because she believes that "everyone that seeks public office should be accountable to the public to the highest degree possible."

The decline of true progressivism in Olympia

There were two other important races on the ballot. In one, Matthew Green was defeated by Craig Ottavelli for a City Council position. The *Olympian* launched an anti-Matt Green campaign early on, at one point printing an unapologetic attack on Green in their endorsement of Ottavelli. Ottavelli is a supporter of the Pedestrian Interference Ordinance, and has made it clear in conversations that he is in favor of going much farther than that by passing even stricter laws that would further limit public access to public property. If we do nothing, the diversity that so many of us cherish will be wiped away in the name of short-term profits.

Rhenda Strub, who defeated Jean Marie Thomas, has stated that she will push for housing downtown that "most of us can't afford." Her views on the working class and poor of Olympia are neatly summed up by a quote that the *Olympian* printed and praised her for specifically, and that is: "We need retail customers, not social service customers."

> Ellis stated, "I suppose if they want to call it scrutiny they could, but really it's no more than asking [the candidate] for an explanation."

Ottavelli and Strub round out this new-look/new-direction council that believes in top-down leadership, that the will and desires of The People are superseded by their position on the council, and that bringing in revenue trumps all—even people's rights.

We no longer have a progressive voice on our council, and we will suffer for it.

We must act now

All of this points to larger problems here in Olympia. We have one daily newspaper, and it frequently injects itself into local politics with an anti-progressive bias. Because there is no competition locally, they can get away with it. The closest newspaper that could afford to compete, the *News Tribune* out of Tacoma, is owned by the same corporation as the *Olympian*, and therefore will not enter this market. We have great local papers in the *Sitting Duck* and *Works In Progress*, but they come out bi-weekly or monthly and simply do not have the same resources as the *Olympian*.

This is symptomatic of the larger problem we are now faced with, which is a lack of cohesion among progressives in Olympia. If we solve this problem, we will no longer have to worry about struggling against a conservative-packed city council or have to worry about the *Olympian* spoiling the campaigns of our progressive candidates.

Too long we have rested on the fact that Olympia is a liberal town. We took this for granted and are now paying the price. Olympia is owned by the Democratic Party for sure, but many Democrats are heading to the right with Hillary Clinton. I believe the recent city council election is evidence of that shift. We have elected two new council members and promoted another to mayor that have no idea how to handle issues like poverty and homelessness in a sustainable way. They will continue to pass draconian laws while throwing lots of money at services that may mean well, but are inefficient, ineffective, and maintain homelessness as opposed to ending it. They will build the city hall on the port property because Doug Mah's vision of synergy will bring the city lots of revenue in the short term. They will pay no attention to local environmental advocates who try to introduce new ideas or ways of thinking to the council.

True progressives in Olympia need to come together and develop plans for the future. We need to quickly develop a two-year plan to prepare for the next round of city council elections and focus our efforts on developing media strategies to combat The *Olympian*'s influence on local politics. We need to find candidates to run in the next election and we need to start grooming them now. It is never too early to start, and we might just need all of that time to gain enough steam to win back the council seats we need.

Sometimes, in a democracy, there reaches a point when things are bad, and nothing is going the way of The People, when we have to stop what we're doing and realize that it's our own fault, correct ourselves, and take back our place in the process. For Olympia, that time is now, and our window of opportunity is closing fast.

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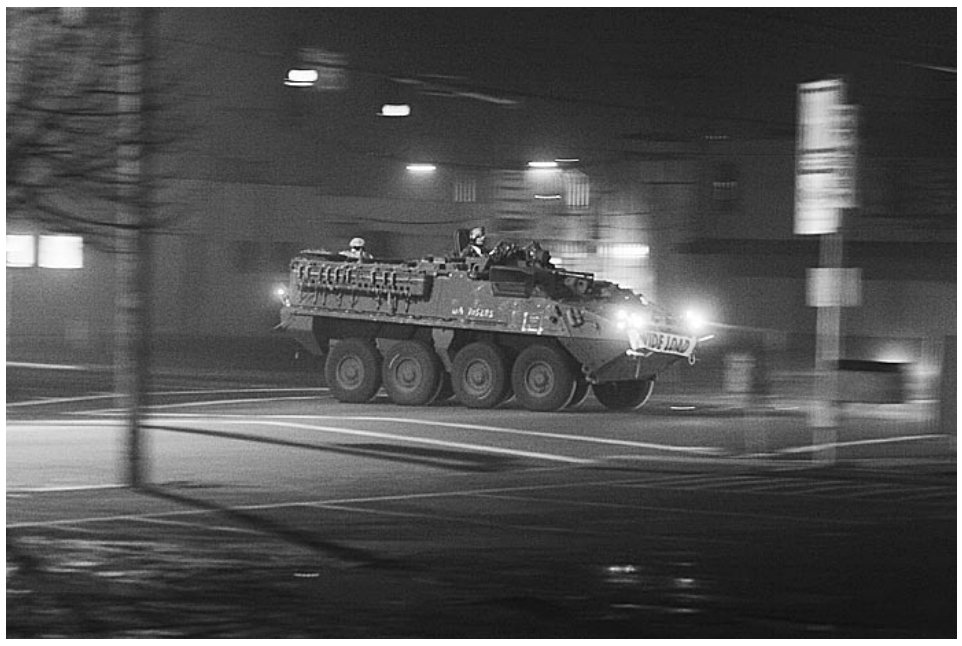
Saturday morning, Nov. 10. Supporters provide food and water to activists at the Port of Olympia main gate blockade. There were no doughnuts left for the riot police. (Photo by Rob Whitlock)



Nov. 13. An Army Stryker vehicle, fresh from Iraq, speeds through Capitol Way, and avoids the demonstrators. Photo by Jim Mayfield.

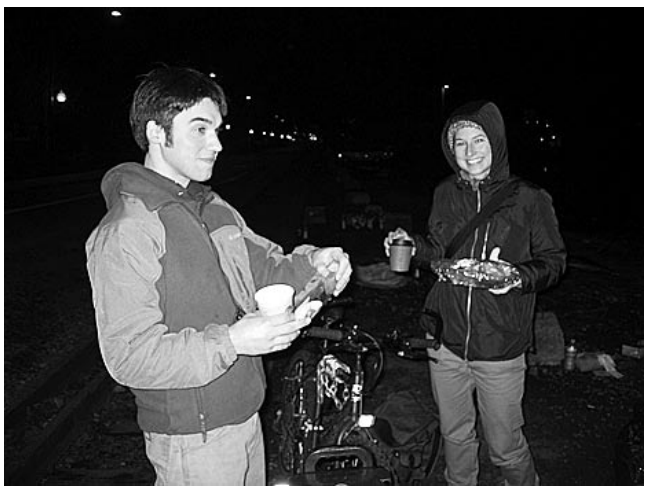
Police fire pepper balls to defend themselves against activists who are sitting with arms locked together. I-5 entrance at Union and Plum, Nov. 10. (Photo by Jennifer Pellinen)

Olympian reporter Jeremy Pawloski and street medic Magi Belknap, Nov. 10. (Photo by Rob Whitlock)

After taking over the Port of Olympia, activists sit down to do homework, Nov. 13. (Photo by Rob Whitlock)

First successful port takeover, Nov. 8. (Photo by Rob Whitlock)

Nobody pedestrianally interferes and gets away with it! Nov. 10. (Photo by Rob Whitlock)

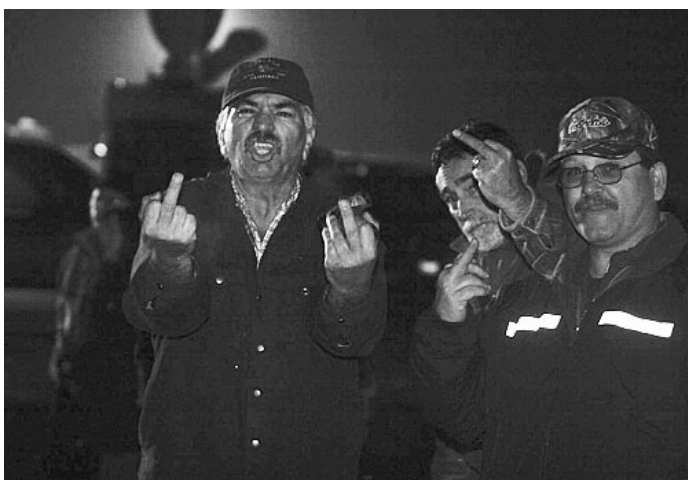


Above: Slow night at the Port, Nov. 11. (Photo by Bethel Prescott)

Right: I-5 action near Union and Plum, Nov. 10. (Photo by K. Schultz)

2 Weeks of Port Militarization Resistance

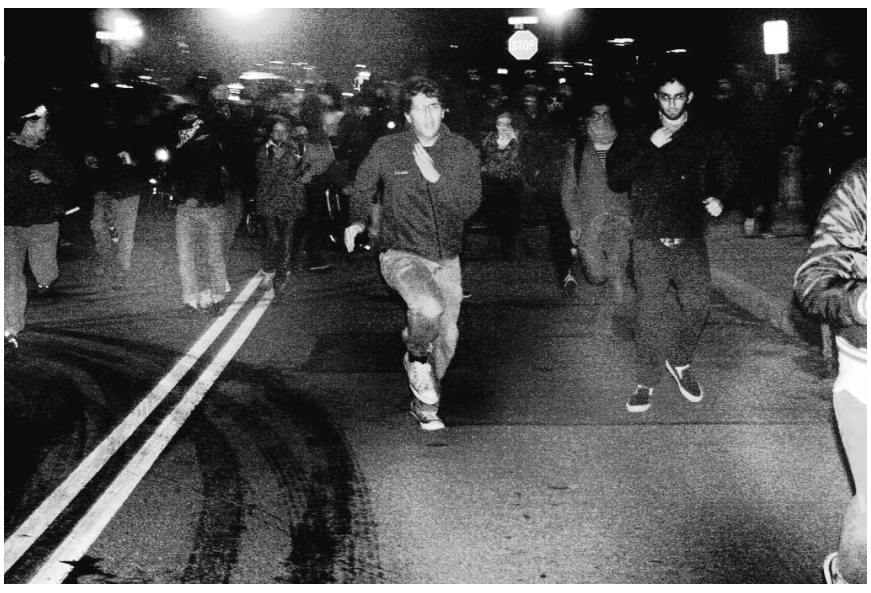
Truck carrying military vehicles fails to slip by, resulting in second successful port takeover, Nov. 13. (Photo by Rob Whitlock)



On Nov. 13 counter-protesters—or haters, as they became known to the demonstrators—made their largest appearance at the port. They tried to disrupt the women's blockade and hurled racist, sexist, and homophobic insults at the protestors. One male hater exposed his genitals to the group of arrested women. Pictured here, they struggle but ultimately fail to make the peace sign. (photo by Jim Mayfield)

A drum and bagpipe band from Portland performs early Sunday morning, to no amusement by the police, Nov. 11. (Photo by Jason Taellious)

14 year old Alivea Binder (right)was beaten and pepper sprayed by police on the night of Nov. 13. (Photo by Elliot Stoller)



Police confront women's caucus, Nov. 13 (Photo by Rob Whitlock)

Above: Over a hundred demonstrators chase after Stryker vehicles through downtown Olympia, Nov. 13.

Right: Final PMR march on 4th Avenue, Nov. 17. (Photo by Elliot Stoller)

Reflections on the anniversary of the Genocide Convention

by Marco Rosaire Rossi

This December 9 marks the 59th anniversary of the "Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of Crimes of Genocide Convention," also known as the Genocide Convention. The Genocide Convention is an example of the small and often spotted steps made toward realizing human rights. In our age, where our conventional conception of warfare has been displaced with the on-going and never ending "war on terror," it is worth reflecting on the relevance of the Genocide Convention and how it could still serve (or hinder) our efforts to "liberate mankind."

The Genocide Convention was approved three years after the end of the Second World War, and a day before the Universal Declaration on Human Rights was also approved by the United Nations general assembly. The horrors of the war—especially the gruesome annihilation of the Nazi holocaust—still hung painfully on to the collective consciousness of people throughout the world. At the same time, the hope of a real internationalism was very much alive. The divide of the Cold War represented both the tragedy of humanity (authoritarianism and exploitation), and its idealism (socialism and democracy.) This duality of sorrow and hope was demonstrated in the Convention. Its opening statements spoke of recognizing "that in all periods of history genocide has inflicted great losses on humanity," while at the same time acknowledging that international cooperation could "liberate mankind from such an odious scourge."

The purpose of the Convention was to prevent any country from becoming—in the words of holocaust scholar Michael Berenbaum—"a genocidal nation" like Germany had during the war. It legally protects any "national, ethnical, racial or religious" group from destruction "in whole or in part." Though better than no protection, the groups listed under the convention have been criticized for being too narrow. For example, Douglas Porpora in his book *How Holocausts Happen: The United States in Central America*, argues that the holocaust perpetuated by Nazi Germany in Eastern Europe was extremely similar to the holocaust perpetuated by United States in Latin America. Take for example the accounts by Rev. Daniel Santiago, an advocate for the poor in El Salvador, on the US sponsored death squads:

> People are not just killed by death squads in El Salvador—they are decapitated and then their heads are placed on pikes and used to dot the landscape. Men are not just disemboweled by the Salvadoran Treasury Police; their severed genitalia are stuffed into their mouths. Salvadoran women are not just raped by the National Guard; their wombs are cut from their bodies and used to cover their faces. It is not enough to kill children; they are dragged over barbed wire until the flesh falls from their bones, while parents are forced to watch.

As Porpora points out, there are few actual differences between the two events. However, the Nazi crimes in Europe are universally condemned, while the US crimes in Latin America still haven't received global recognition. In regards to the Genocide Convention, the Nazi crimes—if repeated—would be considered illegal because the victims were Jews, while the US crimes fall outside of its jurisdiction because its victims were peasants and so-called "communists." Thus many human rights activist have advocated adding "social" and "political" identities to the list of protected groups.

However, it is difficult to criticize the Genocide Convention for what it doesn't have, because even what it does have has been applied with less than satisfying results. The International Court of Justice has only dealt with the Genocide Convention once in its history. That is the case of *Bosnia and Herzegovina vs. Serbia and Montenegro*—which was ruled on in February of this year.

> The most difficult feature of the Genocide Convention is how the accusations of genocide, and cries to its adherence, are so selectively applied.

The wait for the Genocide Convention to actually be used as a legal document before the Court had been a long time coming. Many atrocities had occurred from 1948 to 1995 where the case for genocide could have been made. It wasn't until Serbia's war on Bosnia that a situation arose with the international outrage and the political will to bring it before the Court. To the disappointment of many, the ICJ decided to take a conservative reading of the Convention. The Court concluded that genocide had only occurred in one area: the region of Srebrenica; and that the Serbian government was only guilty of failing to prevent and punish genocide—not of the crime of genocide itself. Judge Al-Khasawneh, one of the dissenting opinions in the case, boldly reprimanded the Court for reaching its results "in the face of vast and compelling evidence to the contrary" and dismissing "facts that did not fit the Court's conclusions." In general, the Court's application of the Genocide Convention has been a bitter blessing: finally, the Convention is alive, but its birth is rather still.

The application of the Genocide Convention in international tribunals—though making greater headway—has also had a troubling history. The International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda both saw a wider interpretation of the Genocide Convention than what the ICJ was willing to consider, but it is impossible to not get the feeling that both Tribunals are tainted with a sense of "victor's justice." The Security Council created both tribunals even though it did not have the explicit powers to do so. In Rwanda, the Tribunal has been dotted with controversy, including a tenuous relationship between the Tribunal and the government of Rwanda, accusation that some of the Tribunal's own employees participated in the genocide, and calls to bring current president of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, before the Tribunal.

The Tribunal in the former Yugoslavia has undergone similar turmoil. Chief prosecutor Louise Arbour publicly announced in May of 1999 that the Yugoslavia Tribunal would not bother investigating allegations against NATO for the bombing of the area in 1994–1995 and 1999. This was the case even though it was reported that the NATO bombing knowingly escalated the massacre of ethnic Albanians in 1999 and exposed both Serbs and Bosnians to over 10,000 ammunitions of depleted uranium in 1994–1995. These crimes could be violations of the Articles of State Responsibility to prevent genocide, but since NATO member states paid for the Yugoslavia Tribunal we will never know.

Perhaps the most difficult feature of the Genocide Convention is how the accusations of genocide, and cries to its adherence, are so selectively applied. What are often considered to be "genocidal crimes" or examples of "ethnic cleansing" depend more on who is making the accusation than the actual crime. For example, in the West, it is routine to hear cries of genocide against Sudan for the violent outbreaks in Darfur, but the situations in Somalia and the Congo are far worse.

The contrast between Burma and Iraq is even more appalling. The recent violent crackdown from the military junta and its treatment of ethnic minorities in the south has been widely condemned. According to the British press, as many as 1,000 people have died in the past few months. But in Iraq, over 1,220,000 people have died in the US led invasion; accusations of genocide and ethnic cleansing—even though the country is becoming even more divided into Kurdish, Sunni, and Shi'ite camps—are completely absent.

The reason for this contrast becomes apparent when the responsibility for the crimes is examined. In Sudan and Burma, powerful Eastern states are involved, therefore they are condemned. In Somalia, the Congo, and Iraq, powerful Western states are involved—particularly the United States—therefore they are ignored.

Needless to say, work still needs to be done before we are fully liberated from the "odious scourge." Monks are still resisting in Burma, attempts at peace are being made in Sudan, and even though the Congo and Somalia are deteriorating, there is less willingness to allow the international community to sit back and watch.

As for Iraq, it seems that neither the people in Iraq nor in the United States are willing to tolerate it. Since September, hundreds of Iraqis have protested the "security wall" that divides the country along ethnic lines—while over 60 people in the small town of Olympia got arrested in November—citing the Nuremburg decisions as their inspiration—for protesting the use of their port as a "revolving door" for the war.

There is still work to be done, but there is also work being done. If it continues, then those small steps towards realizing human rights will eventually get bigger, and the history of human rights fuller.

Marco Rosaire Rossi is a student in the Masters in International Law Program at the United Nations mandate school the University for Peace in San Jose, Costa Rica.

▸ **PROTESTING** continued from page 3

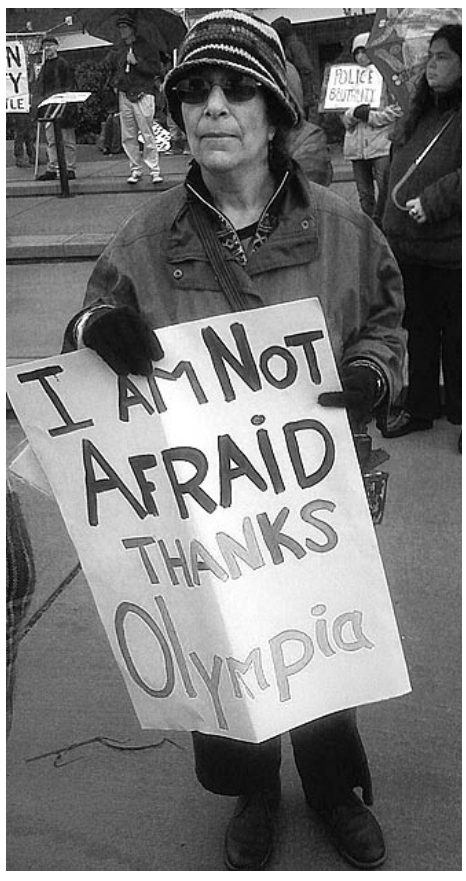
in the streets was directed by police against protesters.

The protesters that I saw were not naive about police brutality. Some of them had experienced the WTO protests, or past port actions in Olympia and Tacoma. Protesters came prepared with bandanas for the pepper spray and seasoned street medics for the injured. So they weren't surprised at all by the police violence. I was perhaps more naive, because I had partly believed the hype about Olympia being a tolerant oasis.

What surprised me was how much some police seemed to enjoy their role, rapping their batons loudly against their padded shins, and smiling when they aimed weapons at people's heads. On Tuesday night, teenagers not even involved in the blockades were attacked with police clubs and chemicals simply for being on the wrong street when the Strykers passed by. Like in the 1960s, this kind of police response will only get more people involved in the movement.

Perhaps a way to ask historical questions is not only to compare the present to the past, but to compare the present to possible futures. When we are in the middle of history in the making, we find it difficult to have perspective, to see the big picture. But it helps to ask how the next generation will view our actions—or lack of action—in the moral crisis of this decade.

I believe that 20–30 years from now, historians will not be wondering why there was unrest in the streets of Olympia against the Iraq War. The reasons for the antiwar protests and pro-war counterprotests will probably be obvious. Instead, historians will be pondering why the majority of antiwar Americans were so silent and passive for the first four years of the occupation. They may see that the protests were directed not so much at the port and the military, but at public silence and passivity. They may remember the ACT UP slogan about the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, and apply it to the Iraq War today: "Silence = Death."



Nov. 30. Rally at the conclusion of Port of Olympia protests. (Photo by Jay Stewart.)

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▸ **WOMEN'S CAUCUS** continued from page 1

aloud if the police intended to shoot into the crowd, but it turned out to be a portable light pole that, once lit, added to the ominous picture of 40 cops outfitted in full Darth Vaderesque riot gear, with batons and guns staring down 39 women peacefully seated with linked arms. The courage of these women was exemplified by the fact that many had already been traumatized by random and brutal police assault during previous days—some of whom were exercising their right to free speech and others who were mere bystanders and witnesses. After witnessing the excessive force—and in some cases downright brutality—against non-violent protesters, none will ever look at the police in the same way.

Predictably, the corporate media blacked out the real story of these brave women who put their bodies on the line for humanity and peace. The Olympian chose instead to sensationalize and focus on isolated property damage incidents and the actions of non-OlyPMR activists who threw rocks, rather than to tell the story of 39 courageous women who stood for peace and human rights. Had they done so, they would have been obliged to contrast the police arrests of 39 women who were exercising their free speech rights in the very same way as the protesters they had brutalized with pepper spray, batons, bean bag rounds, pepper ball rounds, tear gas, concussion grenades, and stinger balls in the preceding days. As the women embarked upon their action, foremost in their minds were the stories of protesters who reported riot police who lifted their goggles to directly spray pepper spray into their eyes (that is, unnecessary force and police brutality).

Countless untold stories abound. In particular, the threats, violence, and assault of the pro-war camp have gone unreported. As one example, one of the men from that camp—in view of police who did nothing—hurled obscenities and exposed his genitalia to the arrested women confined in a city transit bus. But how could the public know of this when the local daily paper, The Olympian, failed to report the police assaults on three of its own journalists as news, evidence of which was captured on video? They only reported it in an editorial the following week. Beyond that, their reporters failed to accurately report the violence against the people. For example, they failed to report on the contrast between police actions occurring on Saturday morning when police directly sprayed men and women protesters who were doing nothing but linking arms in front of the port gates, and that of the 39 women who did the same and who were arrested. Further, there were accounts of unprofessional conduct by the Olympia Police Department that beg for investigation.

Other untold stories include differences among the affinity groups in terms of strategy and tactics. Though everyone supported the action as it unfolded, issues have since been raised about inclusiveness, about race and ethnicity, and about ability. The movement is evolving and growing pains are inevitable. A challenge will be to ensure that in its evolution, it is a movement that is diverse and inclusive.

Though 39 women who resisted, were arrested and released, didn't stop the war, they slowed it down. There is no blueprint for stopping war, but together, during 11 days of resistance in Olympia, and after their elected leaders had failed them, people united and rose up to try. The women's caucus, though ignored by mainstream media, called attention to the inhumanity of war, to the plight of women in Iraq whose voices are not heard here in North America, and they made a resounding statement for democracy and the power of the people. The bloggers and alternative media are reporting across the nation. People are watching and listening worldwide, and similar movements are afoot.

A majority of Americans want an end to the war, and the people have exhausted all of their options. They worked hard and elected a Democratic Congress who promised to end the war and occupation of Iraq, and yet time and again the Democratic Congress has betrayed the people's trust. The Port of Olympia is complicit by creating a revolving door for the war machine, and members of OlyPMR regard it as a moral and human duty for the people to take to the streets.

The women united in this action and the members of the Olympia Port Militarization Resistance and other affinity groups who occupied the Port of Olympia in resistance over 11 long days have shone a beacon of hope and inspiration across the nation and world. It is a beacon of hope for peace, a beacon of hope for the power of the people to act when betrayed by their elected leaders, and it is a beacon of hope for democracy.

Kyle Taylor Lucas is an Indigenous woman of North America and a member of the Olympia Port Militarization Resistance and of the OlyPMR Women's Caucus. She provided legal ground support during 11 days of recent resistance at the Port of Olympia and is a long-term human and civil rights activist, who, as an opinion columnist for the Olympian*, expressed early opposition to an attack on Iraq and its sovereign peoples and has since actively opposed occupation.*

A personal account of the women's action at the Port of Olympia

by Daisy Montague

November 13, 2007, a Tuesday evening around 9 pm, will be forever etched in my mind as a day when a group of strong women took direct action to halt the war of aggression against people in Iraq. I and 38 other women decided to sit in front of the main gates of the port of Olympia to stop the military vehicles from the 2nd infantry 3rd brigade from moving from the Port of Olympia to Fort Lewis military base, where they would be recommissioned only to be returned to Iraq to continue the bloodshed again. We do not agree with the military occupation of Iraq and feel that we have exhausted our options. Petitioning and writing letters to our congress people in an attempt to end the war have been to no avail.

When the women's group was established to create an action without any male bodies, I was concerned that we would be reducing our numbers by half. The police have a tendency to be more aggressive toward the smaller groups of protesters. I was worried, but my sisters in the women's group reassured me that this decision would not only create a huge impact on the community, but would also attract more women to join us. They were right. We began with about 15 women who wanted to be a part of the direct action and eight who wanted to be a part of the support group. Our direct action group numbers more than doubled and our support group numbered 300 people who were at the scene of the protest.

As soon as the riot police arrived on the scene, we made our move. The energy was high as we linked arms in communion and made a line that stretched from the sidewalk at Batdorf & Bronson coffee roasters to the edge of the gate on the opposite side of the street. We sat down with arms linked, many with bandanas around our necks and goggles on our heads to protect ourselves from the chemical weapons that the police had been using so generously on anti-war protesters. As we occupied the road, our support people moved to the right of us to protect us from the heckling of the pro-war protestors. We also had people behind us chanting, "Ain't no power like the power of the sistas because the power of the sistas don't stop!"

The women of this action sat on the cold pavement in solidarity with the women of Iraq and women all over the world who are victims of violence by outside forces, as well as hostile intimate forces in their own homes. We continually communicated to the police that we were non-violent protestors and that no force was necessary to remove us from the streets.

As I think back on the action the women took, I understand what a profound and human achievement we were a part of. In our patriarchal society, women are considered to be weak, submissive, and domesticated in their natural right; I believe we were courageous and powerful in our challenge of the state apparatus. It was amazing to see the cops squirm as they changed their tactics to clear out a road full of women, as opposed to a group of integrated protestors. There were two news teams with cameras on the police and us during the action, which probably swayed the police from using unnecessary force. The police hauled us off one-by-one into vans and into a city bus hired from InterCity Transit of Olympia. It took the van an entire hour to get to the city jail, mere blocks away. They held us until 4 in the morning.

I am proud to have been arrested on these terms of civil disobedience along with the other courageous women. These people understand that it is our duty as civilians of the USA to challenge a corrupt government that is waging an aggressive war against a country that poses no threat to our safety. May the power of the people never stop, and may the women be leaders of the movement that has come to call in our own city of Olympia.

At the PMR rally on Nov. 17, participants of the women's solidarity action gathered on stage at the Port of Olympia plaza. (Photo by Elliot Stoller)

Hollywood's unplanned baby boom: *Waitress, Knocked Up, Juno*

by Diana Arens

This is one of those fancy press photos to promote the movie *Juno*.

I'm easily annoyed by the relative lack of good roles for women in film and by the scarcity of film written and directed by women. I can't help but wonder—is it a right-wing pro-life conspiracy, or at least a mass coincidence of manufactured consent, when three films (*Waitress*, *Knocked Up*, *Juno*) appear in one year depicting unwanted pregnancies that end happily in the birth of babies? What does it mean for women when the representation of reproductive choice disappears from the media?

I was thinking about these things when I sat down to watch an advance screening of *Juno* in Seattle in November, with director Jason Reitman (*Thank You for Smoking*) and screenwriter Diablo Cody (*Candy Girl: A Year in the Life of an Unlikely Stripper* and "Pussy Ranch" blog) in attendance. By my side was Olympia's Kimya Dawson, mother to sixteen month old daughter Panda Dawson-Duval. Dawson provided the majority of the music for the film *Juno*. Her voice and her sweet songs about messy emotions are nearly a character in the film, in the way that Jonathan Richman and Tommy Larkins were a part of *There's Something About Mary*.

It's a basic tenet of feminism that the control of women's sexuality and reproduction is about power. In the film *Juno*, opening December 14, the power lies with intelligent and wry high schooler Juno (Ellen Page), from start to finish. Juno instigates a sexual experiment with her best friend Paulie Bleeker (Michael Cera), which results in pregnancy. She investigates procuring a "hasty abortion" at a clinic called Women Now. In a change of heart, she finds potential adoptive parents Vanessa and Mark (Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman)through the *Penny Saver*. She announces her pregnancy and her plan to her parents, and they accept it supportively and without judgment. She develops engaging connections with the potential adoptive parents, and she directs the nature and depth of her relationship with Bleeker.

It was relieving to me that I liked *Juno* so well, for being a film brave enough to have the issue of abortion come into the storyline as an option, considering my irritation with how *Waitress* and *Knocked Up* skirted dealing with it nearly entirely.

In *Waitress*, written by, directed by, and starring Adrienne Shelly, we meet small town diner waitress and pie baker Jenna (Keri Russell), as she is unpleasantly surprised to find that she is pregnant by her financially controlling and physically abusive husband Earl, whom she intends to leave. Jenna visits her doctor, saying, "Well, I seem to be pregnant."

Her doctor effuses, "Good! Good for you! Congratulations!"

"Thanks, but I don't want this baby."

The doctor trails off with, "Well, we don't perform..." (Don't perform what? Appendectomies? Tracheotomies?)

Jena quickly says, "No, I'm keeping it. I'm just telling you I'm not so happy about it like everybody else might be."

Why doesn't Jenna consider the obvious? Is it money? Is abortion not a local option? Her doctor won't even say the word. The viewer doesn't get to, or have to, hear the word.

Later, her husband Earl says, "I'd tell you to get rid of it, but I want you in the same place as me in the hereafter." Is that a personal religious code Jena shares? Jena later describes the baby growing inside her as "an alien and a parasite." I find myself sad for her that she has resigned herself to her situation.

In Judd Apatow's *Knocked Up*, Alison (Katherine Heigl) is shocked to find that she has gotten pregnant during an alcohol fueled one night stand with Ben (Seth Rogan). Sitting around with his buddies, Ben's friend Jonah (Jonah Hill) counsels him to "take care of it."

> What does it mean for women when the representation of reproductive choice disappears from the media?

His buddy Jay exclaims, "Tell me you don't want him to get an A-word!"

Jonah replies, "Yes I do, and I won't say it for little Baby Ears over there, but it rhymes with shmushmortion."

Again, the audience is treated as though we are too sensitive to have to hear the word, and it is hidden beneath a quick joke. Alison's consideration of her options extends to a conversation with her uptight mother, who also pleads with her to, "Just take care of it. Take care of it; move on." Without explanation, Alison decides to go through with the pregnancy, and Ben is happily on board.

Three films: three unwanted pregnancies, zero abortions, three children born. Two of the films, *Waitress* and *Knocked Up*, won't even utter the word "abortion." What does it mean that these two films, which seem like they should deal with options, are conspicuously not using the word "abortion"?

Juno stands out as the one film that presented a woman intelligently considering reproductive options including abortion. Talking to Bleeker, Juno nonchalantly says, "I was thinking I would just nip it in the bud." We see her call Women Now, the women's clinic, saying, "I'm just calling to procure a hasty abortion." There it is, the "A" bomb said aloud on screen. (As an aside, I am reminded of a prank call record by the National Hardwood Floor Association, called *Savage Vigilance for a Rug-Free America*, wherein a guy calls a radio evangelist earnestly asking for information on where he can get his girlfriend a "good Christian abortion." He is eventually dispatched with a dial tone.)

As Juno approaches the abortion clinic she is met by Su Chin, a girl from her high school, holding a sign that says, "No babies like murdering," while chanting, "All babies want to get borned!" It's an easy laugh. As Juno walks past her towards the clinic, Su Chin calls out after her to say, "Your baby probably has a beating heart, you know. It can feel pain. And it has fingernails!" Juno presumably knows that the embryo is not yet a baby, because she later describes it as a sea monkey. Yet, she can't bring herself to go through with the abortion because she becomes aesthetically disturbed in the waiting room by the thought of all of the fingernails around her. One lone protester has changed Juno's mind. Why?

In considering the option of adoption, Juno's mother says, "Someone else is going to find a precious blessing from Jesus in this garbage dumpster of a situation." Is that what Juno thinks? Did she balk at abortion because of religion? She never says. She thinks about getting an abortion, she could have done it, but she just doesn't do it.

The *Juno* screening began with a slightly smarmy smiling man named Warren Etheredge saying, "How many people here are the products of unplanned pregnancies?" Behind us there were a few seats in the small theater reserved for the local chapter of Planned Parenthood.

The screening ended with self-congratulatory banter, disguised as a Q&A session, between screenwriter Diablo Cody and director Jason Reitman about how awesome each thought the other was. At the end of a series of noncontroversial questions I asked Cody what her reaction was to the impending glee of fundamentalists over *Juno*'s choice to not have an abortion, in light of the films *Waitress* and *Knocked Up*. "Bleah. I'm pro-choice." Reitman quickly added, "We didn't set out to make a political movie," and talked about how radical it was to have a film that looks at the potential for what a family is, the way his does.

Warren Etheredge entered the stage smiling, and loomed over the proceedings to wrap things up. Cody noted that *Knocked Up* lacked "good lines for women." Later, offstage, she said, "We thought they [fundamentalists] were going to be pissed. I mean, with the protester out in front of the clinic and everything." I told her that I thought *Juno* was different from *Waitress* and *Knocked Up* because the women with unwanted pregnancies in the other two films didn't even consider abortion, that even the suggestion of a choice was absent. Screenwriter Diablo Cody gave *Juno* all of the control, most of the good lines, and made an undeniably feminist film.

Kimya Dawson noted, "Regardless of the choice that is made by *Juno*, it is the fact that she has a choice that matters. Choice is still choice if the choice is to keep the baby. If abortion is not even presented as an option, then I would consider it a pro-life film." Of the female lead, she says, "I like that *Juno* is a normal, strong girl, and the film is not so much about the social structure of high school. She reminds me of my friends."

Diana Arens hosts "Free Things Are Cool" on KAOS Olympia Community Radio, and lives in Olympia.

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Life, liberty and the pursuit of property

Delectable quotes from the philosophers of the *Olympian*'s online comments pages

by Sergei Holmes

This section is intended to bring up a troubling issue that came about from the port protests. Despite the vast array of testimonials and eyewitness knowledge of injury to humans, the focus rested from a critical portion of the population concerning the threat to property. The feelings of a window and the rights of a trashbin were selected by some as higher than any petty human grievances. This collection of quotes from books, articles and the online comment board from the *Olympian* website is meant to shed light on the history of our nation's sanctity to property and how it affects our psyche.

It is warned that some of these online comments from the port events might trigger traumatizing events that happened to those affected by the violence of the police and counter-protesters and should be read with caution. Also, with this in consideration, a lot of extremely disturbing online comments advocating murder of protesters were not even considered for this article.

Private property couldn't exist without a society that honors and protects it.

Jonathan Rowe, Tomales Bay Institute

These people just want to cause trouble, damage property, cause inconveniences and expenses for citizens, risk injuries to our police force and cause the TAXPAYERS of this city to pay more for police protection.

Hank Dolan, Olympia, letter to the editor, The Olympian, 11/19

Cost of Iraq war to taxpaying citizens of Olympia, WA as of 10/24/2007: $22,700,000

National Priorities Project

No country in the world has a more lively or concerned feeling for property than the United States and nowhere else does the majority display less inclination toward those doctrines which threaten to impair in any way at all the manner in which property is owned. I have often noticed that theories which are by their nature revolutionary, in that they can be realized only by a complete and sometimes sudden upheaval in the rights of property or the status of persons, are infinitely less to people's liking in the United States than in the great monarchies of Europe. If they are promoted by a few men, they are rejected with an instinctive horror by the mass of the population.

Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America

And stop illegally blocking our streets before you antagonize the rest of us into mobilized action to make clear that this town does not belong to you! It belongs to all of us.

Oly Native, 11.10.07 - comment on The Olympian website.

Of all the persistent qualities in American history, the values attached to property retain the most power…Disrespect for federal authority did not lead to disrespect for property; on this count, the West was not so wild…If forest fires represented nature beyond management, the loyalty to private property is its corollary in human nature."

Patricia Nelson Limerick, The Legacy of Conquest

If you are against the actions of our country, I ask that you get involved by being a registered voter, joining a civic organization, volunteering in your community or running for political office. Throwing rocks, blocking streets and screaming insults is a childish and expensive example of expressing yourself.

Kenyon Lyle, Elma, The Olympian, letter to the editor, 11/19

We were raised to organize our adolescent lives in pursuit of external approval: church awards, athletic scholarships, and college admissions. More than any generation in history, we've been signed up, roped in, and overscheduled. When we get to college, many of us rush to join clubs in an attempt to recreate this safe feeling of sanctioned activity, of organized energies, of potential approval by authorities. Our innate passions and spontaneous actions have essentially been bred out of us.

Courtney Martin, "The Problem With Youth Activism", The American Prospect 11/20/2007

It is ILLEGAL to block the flow of traffic like that. Okay, so they didn't have enough police, but they do (sic) a clear picture of many of the offenders. Go thru (sic) the picture and identify as many as possible and arrest them. Period!

J | 11.10.07 - 9:14 am Comment on the Olympian website

Fourth, if you want to protest, do it the right way, have facts and do this orderly and follow the laws of the state and the city.

Wayne Jackson, Olympia, 11/20, The Olympian, letter to the editor

Most of our criminal code consists in offenses against property. People are sent to jail because they have committed a crime against property. It is of very little consequence whether one hundred people more or less go to jail who ought not to go — you must protect property, because in this world property is of more importance than anything else.

How is it done? These people who have property fix it so they can protect what they have…Most all of the crimes for which we are punished are property crimes. There are a few personal crimes, like murder — but they are very few. The crimes committed are mostly against property. If this punishment is right the criminals must have a lot of property.

Clarence Darrow, 1902

Private property created crime.

Jenny Holzer, Truisms

I am tired of the port protesters whining that their rights are being trampled when they are trampling on the rights of other citizens to run their businesses… They are falling into a mob mentality that I liken to domestic terrorism. The police did a great job. No one would be getting sprayed if they listened to the officers. Yes you can protest, No you can't block a public road. It is not your right to break the law.

Without our military they wouldn't be enjoying the freedoms they have."

Glenn Richardson, Olympia,The Olympian, letter to the editor, 11/19

PMR should be classified as a domestic terrorist group, since you are the ones sponsoring these protests with the close watchful eye of "uncle TJ", if you were truly what you're proclaiming peaceful then you would cease all activities and turn over to the police the names of the anarchists. Protesting is fine this anarchy isn't. (sic) it is domestic terrorism

Robert | 11.15.07 Comment on the Olympian website

With overwhelming bipartisan support, Rep. Jane Harman's "Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act" passed the House 404–6 late last month and now rests in Sen. Joe Lieberman's Homeland Security Committee. Swift Senate passage appears certain. Not since the "Patriot Act" of 2001 has any bill so threatened our constitutionally guaranteed rights.

Ralph E. Shaffer and R. William Robinson "Here Come the Thought Police", The Baltimore Sun 11/19/2007

This whole "Non-Violant" (sic) protesting is a bunch of crap. From what I see here, dumpsters and magazine bins being thrown into the streets, bank windoes (sic) being broken out, police cars windows getting broken out is what normal people call "violant" (sic) protesting!

They really do have a whacked out and distorted view of reality. Actually…maybe they are legally blind because they just didn't see what the rest of the community sees!! Criminal Activity! I guarantee that if I were to walk down town and bust out the window and disobey an order from the cops, you can bet your sweet ass that I would be tazed, pepper sprayed and whatever "non-lethal" means used to arrest me for BREAKING THE LAW!

This is getting old | 11.15.07 - 4:37 pm Comment on the Olympian website

It's true on the home front: Part of the power of the police at protests is that each and every police officer (and each and every protester) knows that while one or two unruly protesters may throw a couple of rocks or bottles that bounce off cops' body armor, if need be the police could, and more importantly would, destroy every last protester.

Derrick Jensen, Endgame Vol. 2, Resistance

The second truck driver who was blocked, Darin Davenport of Tacoma, said he was angry that the protesters were keeping him from doing his job and returning to his wife and children.

"I have kids, too; I need to get home," he said. "My father was military, so I support the military. It doesn't look like I'm going anywhere. I'm not going to run anybody over, but I'd like to get home."

"Protesters stop military transport, delay work" The Olympian 11/10/2007

As capital, the value of the worker varies according to supply and demand, and his physical existence, his life, was and is considered as a supply of goods, similar to any other goods. The worker produces capital and capital produces him. Thus he produces himself, and man as a worker, as a commodity, is the product of the whole process. Man is simply a worker, and as a worker his human qualities only exist for the sake of capital which is alien to him. Since labor and capital are alien to each other, and thus related only in an external and accidental manner, this alien character must appear in human reality. As soon as it occurs to capital—either necessarily or voluntarily—not to exist any longer for the worker, he no longer exists for himself; he has no work, no wage, and since he exists only as a worker and not as a human being, he may as well let himself be buried, starve, etc…The existence of capital is his existence, his life, since it determines the content of his life independently of him.

Karl Marx, Marx's Concept of Man

These people should be jailed for disrupting these peoples work…They are just doing their jobs. If you don't like what's happening go vote (sic) don't bother people trying to do their jobs.

Jim Bob | 11.10.07 - 9:34 am Comment on the Olympian website

We see before us a huge community of producers the members of which are unceasingly striving to deprive each other of the fruits of their collective labor—not by force, but on the whole in faithful compliance with legally established rules. In this respect, it is important to realize that the means of production—that is to say, the entire productive capacity that is needed for producing consumer goods as well as additional capital goods—may legally be, and for the most part are, the private property of individuals.

…The consequence is that the representatives of the people do not in fact sufficiently protect the interests of the underprivileged sections of the population. Moreover, under existing conditions, private capitalists inevitably control, directly or indirectly, the main sources of information (press, radio, education). It is thus extremely difficult, and indeed in most cases quite impossible, for the individual citizen to come to objective conclusions and to make intelligent use of his political rights."

Albert Einstein, "Why Socialism?" Monthly Review May 1949

Sergei Holmes is a pseudonym for a member of Port Militarization Resistance. He can be reached for his identity at almostbamboozled@yahoo.com

No broken windows here. Structural blockade on Marine Drive to prevent military equipment from leaving the northern gate of the Port of Olympia, Nov. 10. (Photo by Jennifer Pellinen)

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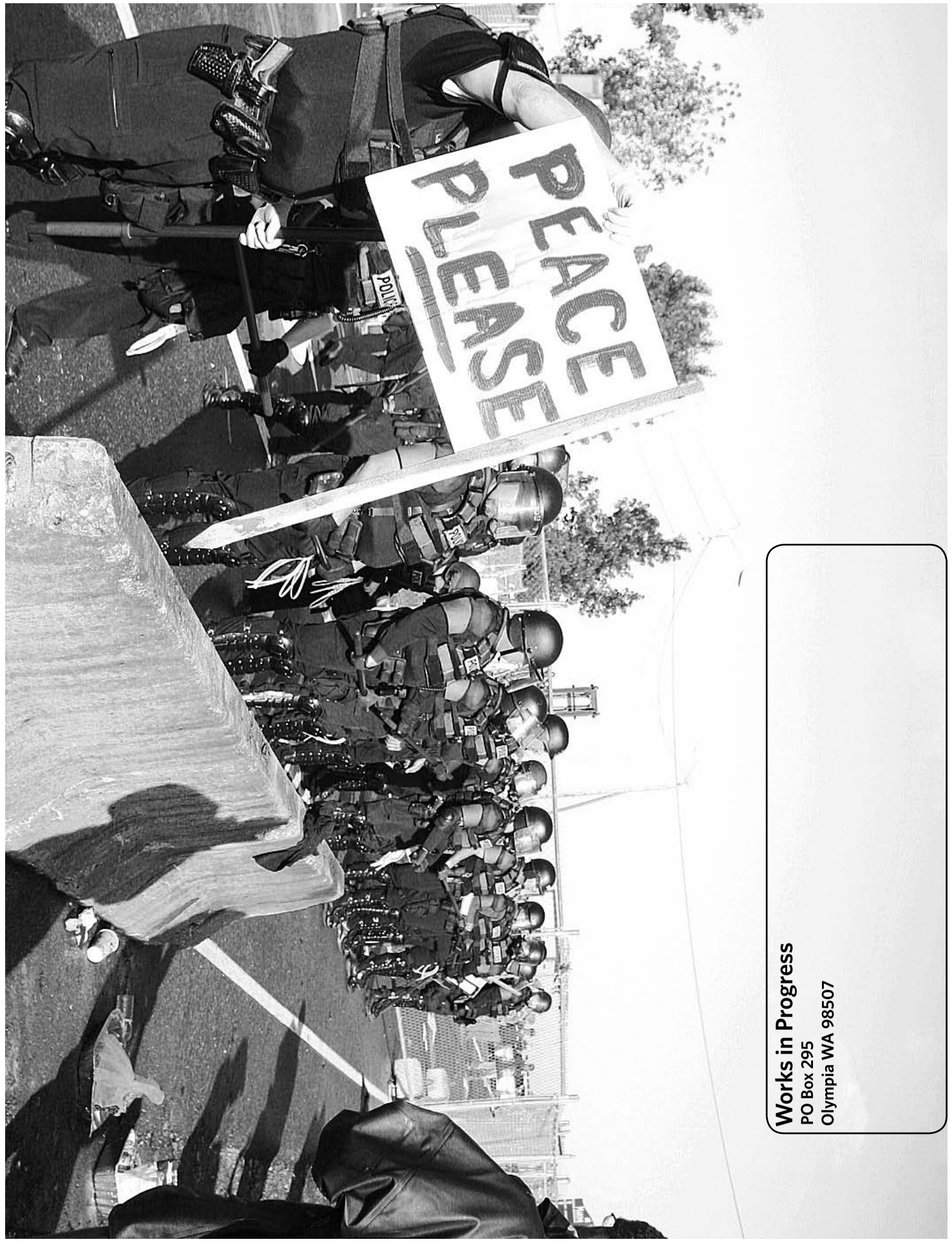

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If this is how the Olympia Police Department deals with 'pedestrian interference'...

...then the penalty for speeding must be waterboarding.